

Background of the Invention

Methods of forming a foam padding seat element with a barrier layer are already known. The barrier layer prevents direct engagement of the foam material with the shaping wall of the foaming mold to simplify removal from the mold. Also, caking or baking onto the shaping wall is prevented in the area of the barrier layer. However, problems arise with the application of such a layer forming the barrier layer and with its fixation to the shaping wall. Because of the application of the forces working during the foaming process on the shaping wall section, the danger exists of displacement of the layer inserted into and embedded in the mold. Also, the danger exists of formation of folds. Among other things, surface defects or flaws arise on the foam element being produced.

Summary of the Invention

Objects of the present invention are to provide a method of forming a foam element with a barrier layer which is simple to perform and leads to improved properties in the products obtained by the method. Other objects of the present invention are to provide a foam element produced by this method.

According to the present invention, a fleece with ferromagnetic coating is used as the layer forming the barrier layer. The fleece is held in its position detachably on the mold wall section by means of a cooperating device producing a magnetic field.

The use of a ferromagnetically coated fleece according to the present invention provides a plurality of remarkable advantages. The embedding into the foaming mold is set up to be very simple. The fleece need only be engaged on the wall of the foaming mold, on which it is held in position by the cooperation of the ferromagnetic coating with the magnetic field being generated on the relevant wall section. To produce the magnetic field, permanent magnets are provided, preferably in suitable layer arrangement on the foaming mold. The fleece fits snugly with its ferromagnetic coating without forming folds on the shaping wall. As required, it is fitted to a contoured strip of the relevant wall section. The layer of fleece remains held in place by the magnetic holding forces during the foaming process.